

To: Blumenfeld, Jared[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV]
From: Diamond, Jane
Sent: Fri 12/6/2013 5:05:12 PM
Subject: FW: Report out and Follow up From CEQ BDCP Deputies Meeting 12/5

From: Gorke, Roger
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 5:25 AM
To: Skophammer, Stephanie; Vendlinski, Tim; Diamond, Jane; Foresman, Erin; Hagler, Tom; Goforth, Kathleen
Cc: Kopocis, Ken; Lousberg, Macara; Rader, Cliff; Bromm, Susan
Subject: Read out and Follow up From CEQ BDCP Deputies Meeting 12/5

All,

Nancy Sutley chaired this meeting with Jay Jensen, Cathy Shuman, and Julie Grogan-Brown. In attendance were Mike Conner (DoI), Mark Schaefer (NOAA), Marie-Terese Dominguez and Chip Smith (Army Corps), Ann Mills (USDA), Kelly Kollier (OMB), Letty Belin (DoI, Phone) and Will Stelle (NMFS, Phone), Ken and me.

The primary purpose was to discuss the impending release of the BDCP and EIR/EIS. Mike Conner stated that there were still a lengthy list of issues that need to be dealt with. They will NOT talk about permitability because it is not a permitable project at this time. This all lead to discussion about timing of the final products. The state of CA (DWR) really wants to finalize the documents in 2014 but the feds believe a more realistic time frame is 2016 (we won't be saying this publicly, I/they don't think) because of all the outstanding issues, including financing and cost sharing.

A couple of humps in 2014 are the need to redo the BO (I don't know much about this) and that the payments that the water contractors are providing to fund this effort runs out in 2014 as well as the Governor's reelection campaign.

The big part of the discussion surrounded around the contents and adequacy of the current documents. We (Ken) stated that we had a great deal of concerns with the administrative draft (including water quality and mitigation) and we don't know yet if they are addressed.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

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We discussed the fine line of making public statements that this "project" and the documents represent "a path forward and that the status quo is not sustainable" but we do NOT want the statements to be construed that the federal governments position is as

the State's and these documents are "good to go, the heavy lifting is done and we need some fine tuning."

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There was discussion about upcoming briefings with NGOs (today, 12/6?) and the CA Congressional delegation. Evidently, TNC and American Rivers are wanting to engage positively and not trying to derail or "go nuclear" on the proposal. Going back to square one doesn't help anyone. This is a path forward but not fully baked.

One big point that Nancy wanted to make sure we stress is that "now is the time for the public to become more engaged in this process." The state and feds have done work but now is the time for us to get more public involvement in this project.

There was also discussion about centralizing the press and media outreach through Ryan Wolf and it appears to me that you all are already doing that.

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He also described the aspects of "programmatic" versus "project" level EISs and how the ratings could be different depending on how they are characterized. This led to an offer for a briefing of DC folks - Mike Conner, Letty Belin, Mark Shaefer, and others on EPA's NEPA role.

I will be following up OFA here to help set that up with CEQ.

As we were all walking out the door there was a quick discussion on the BDCP + and that it is not ready for release, would get lost in the announcement and be confusing.

That is about it. Let me know if you have any questions,

Roger

Roger Gorke

Senior Policy Advisor

Office of Water

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

PH: 202-564-0470

FAX: 202-564-0500

gorke.roger@epa.gov

